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Singapore patent application as filed in this Registry.

Date of Filing : 15 MARCH 1999  
Application number : 9900926-8  
Applicant(s) : NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE  
Title of Invention : AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL,  
ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM OR SEARCH  
TOOL

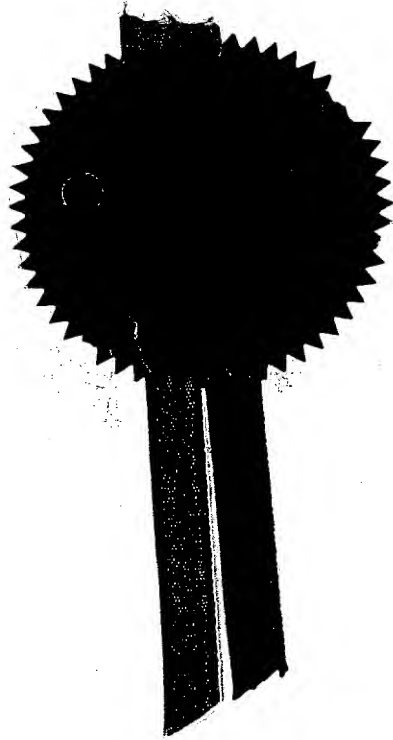
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SINGAPORE

12 MAY 2000

**SINGAPORE  
THE PATENTS ACT  
(CHAPTER 221)  
THE PATENTS RULES**

**The Registrar of Patents  
Registry of Patents**

## REQUEST FOR THE GRANT OF A PATENT

THE GRANT OF A PATENT IS REQUESTED BY THE UNDERSIGNED ON THE BASIS OF THE PRESENT APPLICATION.

<b>I Title of Invention</b>	AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL, ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM OR SEARCH TOOL			
<b>II Applicant(s)</b> (See note 2)	(a) Name	National University of Singapore		
	Body Description/ Residency	An institution in Singapore		
	Street Name & Number	10 Kent Ridge Crescent		
	City			
	State			
	Country	Singapore 119260		
	(b) Name			
	Body Description/ Residency			
	Street Name & Number			
	City			
	State			
	Country			
	(c) Name			
	Body Description/ Residency			
	Street Name & Number			
	City			
	State			
	Country			
<b>III Declaration of priority</b> (See note 3)	Country/Country Designated		File No	
	Filing Date			
	Country/Country Designated		File No	
	Filing Date			
	Country/Country Designated		File No	
	Filing Date			

**SECOND SCHEDULE - continued**

<b>IV Inventors</b> <i>(See note 4)</i> (a) The applicant(s) is/are the sole/joint inventor(s) (b) A statement on Patents Form 8 is/will be furnished	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 30px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px;">Yes</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 30px; text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="width: 50px;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 30px; text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="width: 50px;">Yes</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 30px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px;">No</td> </tr> </table>		Yes	X	No	X	Yes		No																																				
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<b>VII Claiming an earlier filing date under section 20(3), 26(6) or 47(4)</b> <i>(See note 7)</i>	<table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30%;">Application No</td> <td colspan="4" style="border: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black;">Filing Date</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 10%;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 10%;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 10%;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 10%;"></td> </tr> </table>	Application No					Filing Date																																						
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<b>VIII Invention has been displayed at an International Exhibition</b> <i>(See note 8)</i>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 30px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px;">Yes</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 30px; text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="width: 50px;">No</td> </tr> </table>		Yes	X	No																																								
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<b>IX Section 114 requirements</b> <i>(See note 9)</i>	<p>The invention relates to and/or used a micro-organism deposited for the purposes of disclosure in accordance with section 114 with a depository authority under the Budapest Treaty.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 30px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px;">Yes</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 30px; text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="width: 50px;">No</td> </tr> </table> </p>		Yes	X	No																																								
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<b>X. Check List</b> <i>(To be filled in by applicant or agent)</i>	<table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="4"><b>A. The application contains the following number of sheet(s):-</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">1 Request</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;">sheets</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Description</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td></td> <td>sheets</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Claim(s)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td></td> <td>sheets</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Drawing(s)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> <td>sheets</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 Abstract</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> <td>sheets</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><b>B. The application as filed is accompanied by:-</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Priority document</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Translation of priority document</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Statement of Inventorship &amp; right to grant</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 International Exhibition Certificate</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<b>A. The application contains the following number of sheet(s):-</b>				1 Request	3		sheets	2 Description	8		sheets	3 Claim(s)	5		sheets	4 Drawing(s)	1		sheets	5 Abstract	1		sheets	<b>B. The application as filed is accompanied by:-</b>				1 Priority document				2 Translation of priority document				3 Statement of Inventorship & right to grant				4 International Exhibition Certificate			
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## SECOND SCHEDULE - contin

### NOTES:

1. This form when completed, should be brought or sent to the Registry of Patents together with the prescribed fee and 3 copies of the description of the invention, and of any drawings.
2. Enter the name and address of each applicant in the spaces provided at paragraph II. Names of individuals should be indicated in full and the surname or family name should be underlined. The names of all partners in a firm must be given in full. The place of residence of each individual should also be furnished in the space provided. Bodies corporate should be designated by their corporate name and country of incorporation and, where appropriate, the state of incorporation within that country should be entered where provided. Where more than three applicants are to be named, the names and address of the fourth and any further applicants should be given on a separate sheet attached to this Form together with the signature of each of these further applicants.
3. The declaration of priority at paragraph III should state the date of the previous filing, the country in which it was made, and indicate the file number, if available. Where the application relied upon in an International Application or a regional patent application e.g. European patent application, one of the countries designated in that application [being one falling under the Patents (Convention Countries) Order] should be identified and the name of that country should be entered in the space provided.
4. Where the applicant or applicants is/are the sole inventor or the joint inventors, paragraph IV should be completed by marking the "YES" Box in the declaration (a) and the "NO" Box in the alternative statement (b). Where this is not the case, the "NO" Box in declaration (a) should be marked and a statement will be required to be filed on Patents Form 8.
5. If the applicant has appointed an agent to act on his behalf, the agent's name should be indicated in the spaces available at paragraph V.
6. An address for service in Singapore to which all documents may be sent must be stated at paragraph VI. It is recommended that a telephone number be provided if an agent is not appointed.
7. When an application is made by virtue of section 20(3), 26(6) or 47(4), the appropriate section should be identified at paragraph VII and the number of the earlier application or any patent granted thereon identified.
8. Where the applicant wishes an earlier disclosure of the invention by him at an International Exhibition to be disregarded in accordance with section 14(4)(c), then the "YES" Box at paragraph VIII should be marked. Otherwise the "NO" Box should be marked.
9. Where in disclosing the invention the application refers to one or more micro-organisms deposited with a depositary authority under the Budapest Treaty, then the "YES" Box at paragraph IX should be marked. Otherwise the "NO" Box should be marked.
10. Attention is drawn to rules 90 and 105 of the Patent Rules. Where there are more than three applicants, see also Note 2 above.
11. Applicants resident in Singapore are reminded that if the Registry of Patents considers that an application contains information the publication of which might be prejudicial to the defence of Singapore or the safety of the public, it may prohibit or restrict its publication or communication. Any person resident in Singapore and wishing to apply for patent protection in other countries must first obtain permission from the Singapore Registry of Patents unless they have already applied for a patent for the same invention in Singapore. In the latter case, no application should be made overseas until at least two months after the application has been filed in Singapore.

### For Official Use

Application Filing Date	:	/	/	
Request received on	:	/	/	
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*\*Delete whichever is inapplicable*

**"An educational tool, entertainment system or search tool"**

THIS INVENTION relates to an educational tool, entertainment system or search tool for domestic or industrial applications. More particularly, the invention involves the application of automatic identification systems such as radio frequency (RF) identification, barcodes, RF/microwave/millimetrewave transceivers, sonic, ultrasonic and optical (including infrared and ultraviolet) transmission systems in educational tools, search tools and entertainment systems such as themed areas or toys.

The ability to impart educational information or provide entertainment can be enhanced by introducing a level of interactivity between an individual who is to be educated or entertained and the educator or entertainer. However, such an enhanced educational or entertainment experience has hitherto only been possible or readily achieved using human educators or entertainers.

It is an object of the present invention to overcome this problem.

Accordingly, one aspect of the present invention provides an educational tool, search tool or entertainment system comprising one or more identification means each associated with an item, a reader for detecting and interrogating the identification means to identify the item associated therewith and processing means operable to react in a predetermined manner to the identification of a detected item.

A further aspect of the present invention provides a method of providing entertainment or educational information or searching comprising the steps of: providing one or more items with detectable identification means; detecting an

item; interrogating the item and identifying the item from the identification means; and providing information in response to the identification of an item.

A further object of the present invention is to seek to provide a search tool for locating tagged items in a domestic or industrial environment.

In order that the present invention may be more readily understood, it will now be described with reference to the accompanying figure which shows a schematic illustration of a system embodying the present invention.

Referring to Figure 1, a system embodying the present invention consists of a number of identification labels 1 each associated with a particular item and a reader 2 for detecting and interrogating the labels to identify the item associated therewith.

The identification labels 1 may be but are not limited to:

1. Passive/active radio frequency transponders operating in the near field / far field region.
2. Self-contained RF (including microwave and millimetrewave), optical (including infrared and ultraviolet) or sonar transmission systems with/without on/off functions.
3. Barcodes.
4. Wired / contact transmission systems.

5. Any other automatic identification system transponders. These identification labels may be programmable or non-programmable using its reader or a stand alone programmer. The label may contain information pertaining to the identification of the item or description of the item.

The reader 2 may be but is not limited to the following components: a reading device 3 capable of reading the information from the chosen identification labels 1 transponders; an information processing unit 4; an information storage unit 5; and a user interface 6. These different components may be separate or some of the functions may be integrated to form a compact unit. In its simplest form, the reader 2 consists solely of the device for reading identification labels 1 and the function of the other components can be carried out by an associated device such as a personal computer.

The information processing unit 4 receives information from the reading device and processes the information to execute the functions defined in software/firmware present in the information processing unit 5 and pass the resultant information to the user interface 6. The reader 2 may also receive instructions through the user interface 6 and pass such instructions on to the or each label 1 to program one or more of the labels in a specified manner.

The information passed to the user interface may, for example, be information held in the information held in the information storage unit 5 which may be configured as a memory including a look-up table. Thus, if a label 1 is identified as being "tag 3", then the look-up table in the unit 5 is instructed by the processing unit 4 to output information concerning "tag 3" to the user interface 6.

The user interface 6 may include but is not restricted to a keyboard 9, a video display 7 and an audio device 8 to display or announce the information as required in the chosen application. The user interface 6 can accept data input through the keyboard interface 9. The user interface may also be provided with a standard P.C. interface. The reader 2 may also include a response activation unit 10. The response unit 10 incorporates a mechanism operable to react in a predetermined manner to information from the information processing unit. The mechanism may be mechanical in nature but can also emit a visual or audible signal. The response unit 10 need not necessarily be part of the reader 2 but can be associated therewith. For example, the response unit 10 could be located within a toy as part of a mechanism in the toy, the reader 2 being capable of sending a signal to the response unit 10 to activate the response unit 10.

In one embodiment of the system, a plurality of items are each tagged with a respective label 1. When brought to the reader 2, the reader 2 detects the label and reads identification information held on the label and announces, through the audio device 8, the name of the item, the name of the item being the information corresponding to the item tagged with that label 1.

In a second embodiment, the reader 2 can give a brief description of the item tagged with the label. The reader 2 can also display such information if equipped with a video display 7.

In a third embodiment, the reader 2 can be configured in the form of a kiddy teacher toy (i.e. kiddy Professor) and announce or display the identity or type of an item or can announce that there is more than one item.



In a fourth embodiment, the reader 2 can count and announce and/or display the number or items. This can also be used as a tutor to teach spelling by asking children to bring letters (each of which is tagged with a separate label 1) one by one in the correct order and giving necessary instructions.

In a fifth embodiment, the parents or a teacher can program the labels 1 and the reader 2 suitably and attach the labels to various household items and give a portable reader 2 to a child to explore by finding, identifying and learning about the household items.

In a sixth embodiment, the reader 2 is in the form of or contained within a toy and the labels 1 can be used as a switch to direct the reader 2 to activate an appropriate mechanism in the response activation unit 10 in the toy.

In a seventh embodiment, household or industrial items are tagged with labels having identification codes specific to each item. Cross-referencing information linking a particular item to a particular identification code held on a label is stored in the information storage unit 5 of the reader 2. A user, who wishes to search for and locate an item, can enter a desired tagged item or identification code through the user interface unit 6 and move around with the reader 2 to obtain responses from tagged items. Once the reader 2 detects the identification code of the item being searched for, the reader 2 will provide response via the response activation unit 10. Thus, the system provides a search tool with which a user can search for and locate tagged items in both domestic and industrial environments.

In an eighth embodiment, the reader includes one or more dedicated counters which are incremented each time a particular label is read by the reader 2. Thus, a count of the number of times a particular label 1 has been

read (by the reader) is held by the reader 2. The response of the reader can vary according to the number of times the label 1 has been read. For example, a label 1 is attached to or hidden in a toy shark and a reader 2 is hidden in or attached to a kiddy teacher. When the shark is first brought into the reading field of the teacher, the teacher will announce "It lives in the sea". A counter in the reader 2 will be incremented to show that the label 1 has been read once. The next time the toy shark is brought into the reading field of the teacher, the teacher will announce "It is greyish white in colour". The counter will be incremented again to show that the label 1 has been read twice. The next time the shark is brought near the teacher again, the teacher will announce "It will attack human". The counter will be incremented to show that the label 1 has been read three times. Thus, the responses from the reader 2 can be programmed to vary in accordance with the number of times that a particular label 1 has been read so that different information is imported to a user each time.

In another embodiment, the information concerning the number of times a particular label 1 had been read can be stored in the label 1 instead of the reader 2.

This concept can be extended to further innovative applications using the systems. The labels 1 can be used to tag any items of interest. When the label is within the reading range, the reader will identify the label. The reader 2 can then: announce the name of the item; pronounce the name of the item; display any other relevant information of the item; and detect and count the total number of labels 1 within the reading range.

The system can be used as an educational tool for children. The labels 1 can be attached to or contained in small soft toys. The information held in the

memory 5 of the reader 2 on that particular toy is made available when the label 1 is detected and identified by the reader 2. The reader 2 can be attached to or contained in a big toy (i.e. a kiddy Professor). The child can then take toys of their choice towards the reader 2. Once within reading range, the reader 2 will announce and/or display the relevant information of that toy. When more than one toy is brought near the reader 2, the reader 2 will announce and/or display the total number of toys within its reading range. In this way, the child will learn to pronounce, spell and count. The reader 2 can also be set such that there is a revision test for the child. The reader 2 will announce and/or display the information of a toy that it previously detected and the child has to bring the relevant toy to the reader 2. The reader will indicate if the child answers correctly. Alternatively, or in addition thereto, the reader 2 will announce the name of the toy and the child will be asked to spell.

In another embodiment, a portable reader 2 is provided and a user can attach or contain a label 1 in any item of their interest. The information on the item tagged by the label 1 is then entered into the memory 5 by the user interface 6, thereby updating in the reader 2. With the portable reader 2, the user can move the reader 2 towards any tagged item. The reader 2 will then announce and/or display the information on any item tagged by a label 1 once the label 1 has been detected. This application is suitable for a child to learn about new things in its environment (i.e. the names of different items in a household). This application may also serve as an educational tool for adults, for example, electronically labelling the different trees in a botanical garden will enable adults to learn more about the trees.

The labels 1 can be used to act as means to activate an "ON" or "OFF" switch in the reader 2. In this case, a toy having an electrical, mechanical, video or audio mechanism will incorporate the reader 2. Once an appropriate

label 1 is brought into the reading range of the reader 2, the toy will switch on or off a pre-designated mechanism. This application finds use in educational toys for children. For example, to illustrate an "ON" switch label, a toy carrot can contain a label 1 and a toy rabbit can contain the reader 2. When the toy carrot is brought into the reading range of the toy rabbit, a mechanical mechanism is switched on within the toy rabbit by the reader 2 and the toy rabbit will dance happily. Otherwise, it will remain stationary. In another example to illustrate an "OFF" switch label 1, the label is attached to or contained in a toy baby and the reader 2 in a toy mother. When the body is outside of the reading range of the toy mother, the toy mother will cry and shout "where is my baby". However, when the toy baby is brought within the reading range of the toy mother, the toy mother will remain silent. The switch can also be used in the entertainment industry. For example, in a themed area such as a haunted house, visitors entering the house would each be tagged with a unique label, the label only activating certain haunted mechanical figures containing readers 2 in the house. Thus, every individual can undergo a unique experience in the house.

CLAIMS:

1. An educational tool, search tool or entertainment system comprising one or more identification means each associated with an item, a reader for detecting and interrogating the identification means to identify the item associated therewith and processing means operable to react in a predetermined manner to the identification of a detected item.
2. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the identification means comprises machine-readable identification information.
3. A system according to Claim 2, wherein the machine-readable identification information is held on a radio frequency transponder.
4. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the radio frequency transponder is a passive radio frequency transponder.
5. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the radio frequency transponder is an active radio frequency transponder.
6. A system according to Claim 2, wherein the machine-readable identification information is held on an optically (including infrared and ultraviolet) interrogatable medium.
7. A system according to Claim 6, wherein the medium is a barcode.
8. A system according to Claim 2, wherein the machine-readable identification information is held on a wired or contact transmitter.

9. A system according to Claim 2, wherein the machine-readable identification information is held in a sonic or ultrasonic transmitter.

10. A system according to Claim 2, wherein the machine-readable identification information is held in an RF (including microwave and millimetrewave) transceiver.

11. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the machine-readable identification information is programmable.

12. A system according to Claim 11, wherein programming means are provided to programme the machine-readable identification information for the identification means.

13. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the reader comprises means to read machine-readable identification information.

14. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the reader incorporates the processing means.

15. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the reader incorporates a data storage unit.

16. A system according to Claim 14, wherein the processing means includes software to cause the system to react in a different manner to the identification of respective items.

17. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the reader incorporates a user interface.

18. A system according to Claim 17, wherein the user interface includes a video display operable to display information based on the identity of a detected item.

19. A system according to Claim 17 or 18, wherein the user interface includes an audio processing unit operable to announce or announce information based on the identity of a detected item.

20. A system according to any one of Claims 17 to 19, wherein the user interface includes a data input device.

21. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein a personal computer is associated with the reader to provide the processing means and data storage in addition to or instead of the reader.

22. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the reader is a portable reader.

23. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the reader is a toy.

24. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the identification means is provided in the form of a label attachable to an item.

25. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the identification means is locatable in an item.

26. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the reader includes a response activation unit which is operable upon detection of an item.

27. A system according to any one of Claims 1 to 24, wherein the reader is operable to activate a response activation unit associated with the reader upon detection of an item.

28. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the reader is operable to count the number of items which are detectable by the reader and provide the count information to a user interface associated with the reader.

29. A system according to Claim 12, wherein the reader includes the programming means.

30. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the item is a person.

31. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the reader and/or the identification means includes a counter incrementable each time a particular identification means is interrogated by the reader to provide information concerning the number of times a particular identification means has been interrogated by the reader.

32. A system according to Claim 31, wherein a response of the reader is varied in dependency upon the number of times a particular identification means has been interrogated by the reader.

33. A method of providing entertainment or educational information or searching comprising the steps of: providing one or more items with detectable identification means; detecting an item; interrogating the item and identifying



the item from the identification means; and providing information in response to the identification of an item.

34. A method according to Claim 33, wherein the step of providing information comprises providing a signal operable to control a mechanism.

35. A method according to Claim 33 or 34, wherein a reader is operable to interrogate the item and identify the item from the identification means, the method comprising the further step of programming the reader to search for a specific item.

ABSTRACT

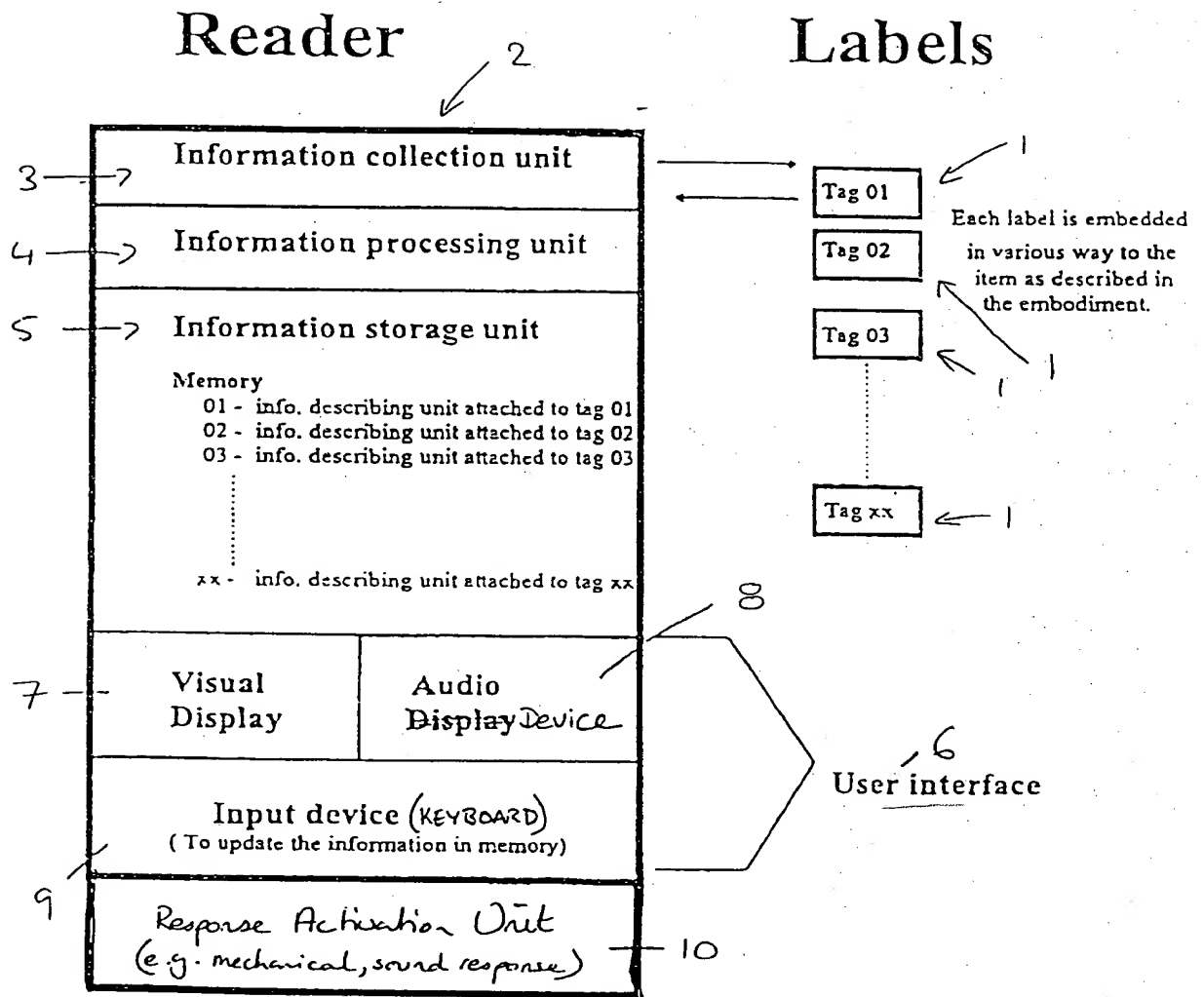
**"An educational tool, entertainment system or search tool"**

An educational tool, search tool or entertainment system comprising one or more identification means each associated with an item, a reader for detecting and interrogating the identification means to identify the item associated therewith and processing means operable to react in a predetermined manner to the identification of a detected item. There is also provided a method of providing entertainment or educational information or searching comprising the steps of: providing one or more items with detectable identification means; detecting an item; interrogating the item and identifying the item from the identification means; and providing information in response to the identification of an item.

Figure 1

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Figure 1



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